



Office of the Mayor
CITY OF VANCOUVER
 BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proclamation

"ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH"

WHEREAS

Vancouver is a city of many ethnicities, cross-cultural understanding, inclusiveness and respect for one's neighbours, and where Vancouver's Italian community passionately celebrates, promotes and shares its culture, values and heritage with other communities in order to weave a vibrant Italian thread through Vancouver's multicultural tapestry;

AND WHEREAS

June is Italian Heritage Month (IHM) and an opportunity to honour the history, culture and contributions of Italian-Canadians to the city of Vancouver. Historic partners representing the foundation of IHM designation and respective celebrations include: Il Centro Italian Cultural Centre (with a month-long series of events); the Italian Day Festival Society (with Italian Day on The Drive) and the Commercial Drive Business Society (with historic 'Little Italy' designation). Contributors to this year's IHM include the Consulate General of Italy in Vancouver, historian and author, Ray Culos, Celso Boscaroli, and the Italian Chamber of Commerce (West).

AND WHEREAS

The City of Vancouver is committed to redress by officially and sincerely apologizing to the Vancouver Italian Community for injustices inflicted upon a number of its constituents. This sad episode relates to the internment and improper monitoring of Italian people living in Vancouver who were denied due process of the law circa 1940-1943.

AND WHEREAS

As a result of these injustices, more than thirty men were incarcerated as POWs, without the benefit of private council representation. In addition, upwards to eighteen hundred Vancouverites, classified as Enemy Aliens, were required by government legislation to report monthly to the RCMP during Canada's war with Italy;

As Geoffrey Palmer, a Jamaican Professor remarked, "You can't change the history. But you can change the consequences:"

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Kennedy Stewart, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the month of June 2022, as

"ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH"

in the City of Vancouver.

Kennedy Stewart
 MAYOR

